GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2630
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
PURCHASE OF MICROSCOPES
P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that DDG(TB) has made purchase of microscopes amounting to Rs. 5 crores;

(b) whether these microscopes are not being used;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the actual cost of microscopes are hardly Rs. 1500/-; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct any enquiry into the entire episode?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Procurement of Binocular Microscopesrequired for the National TB Control Programme, is made by an independent procurement agency engaged by the Department of health and all actions right from floating of tenders to making of payment to the suppliers are taken by procurement agency. The procurement is made through International Competitive Bidding.

(b) The microscopes procured for the Programme are being extensively used because the RevisedNational TB Control Programme (RNTCP) gives stress on diagnosis by quality sputum microscopy.During 1999-2000, 40,09,727 number of sputum examinations were reported to have been conducted in the country for which a microscope is the most essential pre-requisite.

(c) No, Sir. The procurement agency procures these microscopes through InternationalCompetitive Bidding following World Bank guidelines, in order to get the product at the most competitive prices.

(d) Does not arise.